

**Security Council**

Distr.: General
16 September 2002

Original: English

**Letter dated 16 September 2002 from the Secretary-General
addressed to the President of the Security Council**

You will recall that I have, on several occasions, appealed to the Government of the Republic of Iraq to allow the return of United Nations inspectors to Iraq in implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions. My discussions with Iraq and my appeals have been based on the commitment of the Security Council and all States Members of the United Nations to all the purposes and principles laid out in the Charter of the United Nations and guided by the relevant Security Council resolutions.

I would like to inform you that the Foreign Minister of Iraq, Naji Sabri, has written to me indicating that the Government of the Republic of Iraq has decided to allow the return of United Nations weapons inspectors to Iraq without conditions. The Foreign Minister has also indicated that his Government is ready to discuss the practical arrangements necessary for the immediate resumption of inspections. As I had the honour to mention to the General Assembly a few days ago, this decision by the Government of the Republic of Iraq is the indispensable first step towards an assurance that Iraq no longer possesses weapons of mass destruction and, equally important, towards a comprehensive solution that includes the suspension and eventual ending of the sanctions that are causing such hardship for the Iraqi people and the timely implementation of other provisions of the relevant Security Council resolutions.

I attach a copy of the Foreign Minister's letter (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi A. Annan



Annex

Letter dated 16 September 2002 from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the series of discussions held between you and the Government of the Republic of Iraq on the implementation of relevant Security Council resolutions on the question of Iraq, which took place in New York on 7 March and 2 May and in Vienna on 4 July 2002, as well as the talks which were held in your office in New York on 14 and 15 September 2002, with the participation of the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States.

I am pleased to inform you of the decision of the Government of the Republic of Iraq to allow the return of the United Nations weapons inspectors to Iraq without conditions.

The Government of the Republic of Iraq has responded, by this decision, to your appeal, to the appeal of the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, as well as to the appeals of Arab, Islamic and other friendly countries.

The Government of the Republic of Iraq has based its decision concerning the return of inspectors on its desire to complete the implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions and to remove any doubts that Iraq still possesses weapons of mass destruction. This decision is also based on your statement to the General Assembly on 12 September 2002 that the decision by the Government of the Republic of Iraq is the indispensable first step towards an assurance that Iraq no longer possesses weapons of mass destruction and, equally important, towards a comprehensive solution that includes the lifting of the sanctions imposed on Iraq and the timely implementation of other provisions of the relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolution 687 (1991). To this end, the Government of the Republic of Iraq is ready to discuss the practical arrangements necessary for the immediate resumption of inspections.

In this context, the Government of the Republic of Iraq reiterates the importance of the commitment of all States Members of the Security Council and the United Nations to respect the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of Iraq, as stipulated in the relevant Security Council resolutions and in Article 2 of the Charter of the United Nations.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dr. Naji Sabri
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Republic of Iraq